



# FORMER NAVAL STATION ROOSEVELT ROADS

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

Meeting No. 27 – November 13, 2012  
Club Cívico La Sevba, Ceiba, Puerto Rico

*Note: This meeting summary is based on informal notes taken at the meeting. It is not intended as a verbatim transcript. Portions of some discussions may not have been captured. If comments or additional notes are provided within 30 days of distribution of these minutes, they will be added as an attachment to this summary.*

### I. Welcome and Introductions

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The meeting began at 6:30p.m. Thuane Fielding, from the Navy welcomed the public and thanked APRODEC and the group for the hospitality and kindness showed by organizing a lunch for the Navy. Thuane also informed that she had the opportunity to say goodbye to the caretakers at the base and thanked them for their service over the years. She presented a letter of appreciation to Mr. Ismael Velázquez, who works at the Naval Activity Puerto Rico and is a member of the Restoration Advisory Board.

### II. Action Item from Last Meeting

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#### Status of the Waste Water Treatment Plants

- Wilmarie Rivera (EQB) – The President of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) talked to the Local Reuse Authority (LRA) to inquire about the waste water treatment plants. The LRA informed EQB that they do have a process in place to pick up the waste water.
- Ismael Velázquez (RAB Member) – It seems that the LRA is only collecting the waste water from one plant. Wilmarie will follow up with her supervisor who in turn will contact the LRA to get more details.
- Ismael Velázquez –The problem at Roosevelt Roads is that all utilities were supposedly transferred to the government of Puerto Rico (LRA) in January, including the treatment plants and power. I checked and I did not find any kind of utility contract with the LRA, so who is taking care of the utilities? We do understand that the Navy is responsible for the cleanup only.
- Thuane Fielding (Navy) – After the property transfer was completed, the Navy is only responsible for the ongoing environmental cleanup. When the utilities were transferred to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, it then became the responsibility of the LRA to provide utility services. The three waste water treatment plants were conveyed to the LRA; at the time the plants were not operational. The LRA needed to acquire a permit to be able to operate them. The Navy's permit was terminated January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Ismael Velázquez – There's another issue that has to do with the environmental cleanup. There are two places on the base that require follow up. One is in front of the new lodge where the soil was removed. The holes fill with water that runs off from the waste water plants, causing a mosquito problem. Mark Davidson (Navy) told me that after the rainy season was over the Navy was going to clean the holes; it did not happen.

The second issue has to do with the metals that were thrown nearby when the cleanup activities started. Mark told me that the metals were going to be removed after the rainy season was over.

- Thuane Fielding – I think you are refereeing to SWMU 1. The Navy has an obligation to complete the environmental cleanup and address all the sites that have been identified. SWMU 1 is not on the agenda for this meeting, but we will give you information about the status of the site along with the briefing we have prepared for today.

### **III. Completed Work – Stacin Martin (Navy)**

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**SWMU 1** – When the Navy started with the investigations of the debris behind the Navy's lodge, some munitions items were found. We had to stop and prepare all the appropriate documentation and mobilize equipment and personnel on site to remove the munitions items along with the debris. We did not expect to find debris below the ground surface, so we faced a change in conditions. Following the process, we are currently developing a new plan, starting with a site reconnaissance. The plan will be presented to the RAB as soon as we complete the site reconnaissance and develop the new approach for the area.

**SWMU 2** – Also known as Site 6. Similar to SWMU 1, we encountered a change site conditions. The Navy had a contractor working on an interim removal action to remove contaminated soil. Because of the conditions of the site, and because certain areas were very wet we could not follow the established approach. We only completed part of that removal action. We are currently trying to figure out the best way to address the remaining soil.

One important thing to note is that this is a great example of how the information process is working with the public. A member of the community notified the agencies that he saw something in the past, gave us specific details, we identified the site, and samples were collected. Petroleum products were found in the soil around that area while repairing the sewer lines. We are waiting for the analysis to be completed so the site can be properly addressed.

### **III. Field Work Conducted Since August 2012**

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- AOC F Site 1738 (Petroleum Sites) – Additional MTBE investigation
- Site 12 (SWMU 7/8; Tow Way Fuel Farm) – Ongoing product recovery and MNA sampling
- SWMU 27 (Capehart WWTP) – CMS Investigation
- SWMU 28 (Bundy WWTP) – CMS Investigation
- SWMU 29 (Industrial Area WWTP) – CMS Investigation
- SWMU 57 (POL Drum Storage) – Full RFI Investigation
- SWMU 59 (Vehicle Maintenance) – Supplemental CMS Investigation
- SWMU 60 (Marina Landfill) – Geophysical survey in support of the Full RFI
- SWMU 61 (Bundy Maintenance) – Passive soil gas survey, drainage ditch source area investigation, and background drainage ditch sampling in support of the Supplemental CMS Investigation
- SWMU 71 (Quarry Disposal Area) – Geophysical survey in support of the Supplemental Full RFI
- SWMU 75 (Building 803) – Groundwater sampling

- UXO 1 (SWMU 77; Small Arms Range) – Full RFI investigation
- UXO 2 (Site 5/SWMU 1; Army Cremator Disposal Site) – Site reconnaissance
- Sewer Line investigation (across the street from Building 38-Old Power Plant)

#### **IV. Field Work Planned Through January 2013**

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- AOC E “Pineros Island” – Reconnaissance in preparation for RFI investigation.
- Site 7 (SWMU 3; Landfill) – Planning for landfill cap installation
- Site 13 (SWMU 9; Tank 212-217 Sludge Burial Pit) – Supplemental Full RFI
- Site 13 (SWMU 9; Tank 212-217 Sludge Burial Pit) – Planning for tank removal/demolition
- SWMU 28 (Bundy WWTP) – Groundwater sampling associated with the CMS Investigation
- SWMU 54 and 55 (Auto Maintenance Shop and Tow Way TCE Plume) – Baseline groundwater sampling
- SWMU 54 and 55 (Auto Maintenance Shop and Tow Way TCE Plume) – Remedial system installation
- SWMU 60 (Marina Landfill) – Full RFI Investigation
- SWMU 61 (Bundy Maintenance Facility) – Supplemental CMS Investigation
- SWMU 70 (Disposal Area NW of Landfill) – Supplemental Full RFI
- SWMU 71 (Quarry Disposal Area) – Supplemental Full RFI Investigation
- SWMU 74 Airfield Area (Fuel Pipelines and Hydrant Pits) – Supplemental CMS Investigation
- SWMU 80 (Bldg 207 Drainage Ditch) – Supplemental Phase I RFI

#### **Discussion Points**

- Ismael Velázquez – What is the status of the transformer storage site?
- Stacin Martin (Navy) – We have received funding to continue to address this site. We are in the process of figuring out what additional removal or action needs to be taken at that site. We will discuss this site in more detail at the next meeting.
- Luis Velázquez – Another issue is the power building where lots of drums were placed. What’s in them? Why are they still there?
- Stacin Martin – those drums contain waste from the sampling efforts. The wastes (IDW) are being properly stored awaiting final disposal. It is just a temporary staging area until all the sampling activities are completed.
- Naida Davila – (RAB Member) – I want to go back to the waste water treatment plants and the potential health issues they present to the community. Thuane clearly stated that they are not the Navy’s responsibility. I want to ask Wilmarie how can APRODEC help, who is in charge?
- Wilmarie Rivera (EQB) – You have to go the LRA, and I understand that the person in charge is Mr. Mario Gonzalez.
- Naida Davila – So EQB doesn’t have any jurisdiction?
- Wilmarie Rivera – As explained earlier, the Navy cancelled their operational permit when the property was transferred to the LRA. EQB is involved in the permit process, but only reviews

the site conditions. The agency who actually issues the permit is EPA, the federal agency, not the local agency.

- Naida Davila – Can you please talk to EPA, and also with the Health Department, and let us know at the next meeting what specific actions APRODEC and the members of the community can take to solve this potential health problem to the people of Ceiba?
- Thuane Fielding – Concerning the waste water from the treatment plants, let me give you more details: when the transfer negotiations were completed, the Navy met with the LRA and asked them in writing if they wanted the Navy to convey to them the property including the waste water treatment plants. Initially, the LRA informed the Navy that they wanted us to completely close the plants. I shared those communications with the RAB Co-Chair, Ramón Figueroa. Later, the LRA approach the Navy and requested the water treatment plant remain operational but not the waste water treatment plants. The Navy notified all the tenants, the Army, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, also DOI and the National Park Service, letting them know that the Navy will stop providing the utility services, including water, waste water treatment and electricity. We had two or three meetings with all of the tenants and the LRA. The Navy shut down the waste water treatment plants in January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the same day that we signed the quitclaim deed and the lease for conveyance for the property to the LRA.
- Ramon Figueroa (RAB Co-Chair) - I believe Thuane's explanation clarifies all the process that went through for the transfer of the waste water treatment plants and the water plant. I share the community's concerns, but we need to understand that the Navy has no responsibility from the operational point of view when the agencies negotiated a conveyance that includes the terms and conditions for the contract. Members of the community have shared this information with the public through a press release that includes an exhaustive investigation I performed about the permit of the waste water treatment plants. Let's wait for Wilmarie to contact the pertinent agencies and get us feedback. If no new information is found, the community will have to look for an alternate method to complain, perhaps take photos, look for proofs, etc.
- Ismael Velázquez – the US Army Reserve is paying for the pickup of the waste water. What I am talking about is Parcels I and II. The Navy is responsible. That's different from what the LRA wants to do. The Navy is responsible because we are working there.
- Thuane Fielding – There's some confusion, Parcel I and II have not been transferred; however, all utilities for the total Naval Station Roosevelt Roads —, water, waste water and electrical — for Parcels I, II and III has been transferred to the LRA. That was done to ensure continuity so anybody who gets any of the property we conveyed also gets utilities.. In the invitation for bid in the selling documentation, we stated in that whoever bought Parcel I and II would have to talk to the LRA to get utilities for the property. Just for clarification, the utilities for the total Naval Station conveys to the LRA.
- Rafael Montes (RAB Member) – I want to make sure that my concern is noted because I have heard that there are some lines from the plants that were used to help with crisis situations like hurricanes or floods. In those cases the plants don't have enough capacity to treat the waste water, so it is detoured to other pipelines that go directly to the ocean. I would like to know if the government is aware of this. The LRA should not use those valves to dump the water into the sea.

- William Lourido (RAB Member) – Thuane mentioned that the Navy transferred Parcel III with some restrictions. If we find that there are problems with the process, can the Navy go back and accuse the Government of Puerto Rico (LRA) of violating these restrictions?
- Thuane Fielding - If the Navy finds documentation to prove that restrictions were violated, the Navy and/or the regulatory agencies can start a process with the Government of Puerto Rico. In this case, since the Navy's permit was terminated, the Navy has no operational requirements for the area. Currently there are no violations since they are providing us electricity and water as it is stipulated in our contract.

## **V. Property Transfer Update – Thuane Fielding, BRAC PMO SE**

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- The Navy is currently working with the LRA to take ownership via an economic development conveyance for Former Sale Parcels I and II. The reuse plan for these parcels remains the same; no additional NEPA work is required. We are expecting a complete transfer in early FY13
- The Navy has been working to transfer the Indian Rock (Petroglyph Site) and 67.49 acres to the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER). The Navy first assigns property to the Department of Interior (DOI)-National Park Service who will transfer the property to DNER. 2,986.5 acres have already been transferred to DNER (through DOI) via a Public Benefit Conveyance. On September 26, 2012, DOI approved the addition of this site to the previously approved Public Benefit Conveyance. The Property assignment to DOI for transfer to DNER is expected to be completed in early FY13.

### **Discussion Points:**

- Naida Davila – In a letter directed to Mr. Carlos Arrubio, the Navy stated that they will provide some mitigation measures for the Indian Rock and other archeological sites. What has happened with that? Which mitigation measures will be provided?
- Thuane Fielding – DOI already has that documentation. They were very much in favor of conveying that property over to the DNER because those agencies are very much aware of all the work that has been done to protect that site. In the assignment package DOI will receive the finding of suitability to transfer addendum, including the legal boundaries for this site. When the DOI conveys the property to the DNER, they most likely will issue a deed very similar to the deed that conveyed the 2,296 acres. The only property remaining to be assigned to DOI is Piñeros Island and Cabeza de Perro until the Navy completes the environmental work at those sites.
- Luis Velazquez – Is the road leading to Indian Rock part of this transfer?
- Thuane Fielding – Yes, that's one of the easements of the conveyance.

## **V. CLOSURE**

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Susana Struve (facilitator) – Thanked participants for the luncheon and for attending the meeting, and announced the next RAB meeting will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at the Club Cívico La Seyba, if available.

## ATTACHMENT 1 - Meeting Attendees – November 13, 2012

RAB Community Members Present		RAB Community Members Absent	
Ramón D. Figueroa, Community Co-Chair		Lirio Marquez D'Acunti	
Luís A. Velázquez Rivera		Debra McWhirter	
Ismael Velázquez		Ramón M. Ríos	
Naida Dávila		Jorge Fernández Porto	
Rafael Montes		Agustín Velázquez	
Samuel Caraballo			
Michael Dalton			
José Julio Díaz			
William Lourido			
Community Members Visiting			
Hiram Rivera			
Silverio Rosario			
Felicita Rosario			
Barbara Orsillo			
RAB Agency Representatives			
<b>Thuane Fielding, Navy Co-Chair,</b> BRAC Environmental Coordinator		Navy - BRAC Program Management Office Southeast	
Doug Pocze (absent)		EPA, Region 2	
Wilmarie Rivera		EQB, Federal Facilities Coordinator	
Gloria M. Toro Agrait		EQB, Hazardous Waste Permit Division	
Santiago Oliver (representative)		Puerto Rico Conservation Trust	
Neida Pumarejo Cintrón (absent)			
Other Agency Representatives			
Stacin Martin		Navy Remedial Project Manager	
Daniel Kalal		Naval Activity Puerto Rico	
(Absent)		LRA	
Support Staff			
Susana Struve		CH2M HILL, Inc. (Navy contractor – meeting facilitator)	
Pedro Ruiz		Naval Facility Engineering Command (NAVFAC)	
Brett Doerr		CH2M HILL (Navy contractor)	